500.43486X00

JD/4

INITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Junichi TAMAMOTO et al.

Serial No.:

10/772,386

Filed:

February 6, 2004

Title:

SHEET HANDLING APPARATUS

Group:

3654

Examiner:

KUMAR, Rakesh

Confirmation No.:

6779

UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Mail Stop: Amendment Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

December 22, 2005

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a Communication from a Foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign (European) application and copies of the non-U.S. Patent documents listed in the attached Form PTO/SB/08A for the Examiner's consideration.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application, but prior to a Final Office Action or issuance of a Notice of Allowance, or issuance of any other action closing prosecution on the merits in the above-identified application. Accordingly, the fee of \$180.00 is enclosed herewith.

12/23/2005 HALI11

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The following Statement is made under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the present submission of the enclosed documents. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents, during examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 Case: 500.43486X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 22, 2005



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known			
				Application Number	10/772,386		
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Filing Date	2/6/2004		
				First Named Inventor	J. TAMAMOTO		
				Art Unit	3654		
				Examiner Name	KUMAR, Rakesh		
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	500.43486X00		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		US- 5,764,346	06-09-1998	Jard et al.		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code 3-Number 4-Kind Code 5(if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Т6	
		EP 0 718 809 A2	06-26-1996	Azkoyen Industrial S.A.			
		EP 1 199 681 A2	08-09-2001	Hitachi, Ltd.			

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

PTO/SB/08B (04-03)
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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO 10/772,386 Application Number 2/6/2004 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date STATEMENT BY APPLICANT J. TAMAMOTO First Named Inventor 3654 **Group Art Unit** KUMAR, Rakesh (use as many sheets as necessary) Examiner Name 500.43486X00 Attorney Docket Number 2 Sheet

		NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS	T ²
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	<u> </u>
		European Search Report dated November 24, 2005.	
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